WEIRD VAMPIRE TALES

CC 02950 JAN 1980 $1.75

SHARP FANGS SINK INTO RAW FLESH AND SCREAMS DIE AS

CRAWLING THINGS DRINK THE WARM BLOOD IN

BLOODSUCKER

ENTER THE HORROR WORLD OF EERIE, TERRIFYING, AND WEIRD THINGS IN

- FANGED FREAK
- THE DEMON
- FANGS OF REVENGE

INVITATION FROM A VAMPIRE!

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JAN 1980

VOL. 3 NO.4

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The DEMON

FROM THE FROZEN WASTES OF ANOTHER WORLD CAME THIS INHUMAN MONSTER TO PREY ON MANKIND AND GLUT ITS APPETITE ON SOFT FLESH!

THEY WERE COMING TO THE LAST LAP OF THEIR TREK... SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF THE SNOW-CLOUDED MIST LOOMED A DARK HOLE IN THE MOUNTAIN SIDE...

TENSE MINUTES LATER THE CAME UPON...
LOOK! THOSE IDOLS MUST BE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD!
AMAZING! AND I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!

GEORGE-- MARION-- PLAY YOUR TORCHES ON THAT WALL FOR A MINUTE! YES...I THINK WE'VE FOUND IT!
YOU MEAN--WE'VE FOUND THIS NEANDERTHAL SPECIMEN?

CASTING THEIR CAUTION TO THE WINDS, THE THREE EXCITED PEOPLE CHOPPED AT THE WALL OF ICE...
UGH! IT'S LIKE ROCK!
USE MORE POWER BEHIND YOUR SWING!

HUGH! YOU'VE HIT SOMETHING!
I KNEW I COULDN'T BE WRONG! I THINK WE'LL FIND OUR SPECIMEN HERE... IN THIS WALL!

--AND THERE IT IS!
OHH!
WHAT A HORRIBLE-LOOKING MONSTER!

I--I CAN'T GET OVER THE APPEARANCE AND CONDITION OF THIS THING! IT ALMOST LOOKS ALIVE!
IT PROBABLY IS, MY DEAR!

NOW FOLLOWED WEEKS OF DIFFICULT WORK TO REMOVE THE MONSTER-THING OUT OF THE CAVE AND DOWN TO THE GROUND BELOW...

THEN MORE HARD WORK! THE MEN HEWED OUT A PASSAGEWAY OF ICE TO CARRY THE FROZEN MASS TO ITS DESTINATION!
And MONTHS LATER ON A LINER BOUND FOR AMERICA...
WHAT'S COME OVER HIM?
SEEMS LIKE THIS DISCOVERY HAS AFFECTED HIM MORE THAN WE UNDERSTAND!
BACK IN AMERICA, HUGH DIDN'T PUBLICIZE HIS DISCOVERY AS EXPECTED! THREE WEEKS AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, HE SENT FOR GEORGE AND MARION...
COME IN! COME IN! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU! I'M GOING TO BRING THE MONSTER BACK TO LIFE!

SO THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T PUBLISH YOUR FINDINGS!
ARE YOU CRAZY? DO YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE SUCH POPPY-COCK?
I THINK YOU WILL!

HUGH! YOU'VE KNOCKED GEORGE UNCONSIOUS!
YES... ALL TO GOOD PURPOSE HA! HA!
MINUTES LATER, GEORGE CAME OUT OF THE BLACKNESS TO FIND MARION AND HIMSELF FORCIBLY GIVING BLOOD TO THE MONSTER!
PLEASE, HUGH! PLEASE!
HUGH! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE... STOP!
NO! YOU'LL NOT CHEAT ME OUT OF MY GREATEST EXPERIMENT! MY NAME WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY!
IT'S OPENING ITS EYES! EEEEE!
SUDDENLY!
W-WHAT HAVE I DONE? STAY BACK!
AS MARION AND GEORGE STRUGGLE TO FREE THEMSELVES, THE ICE HORROR CLAIMS ITS SCREAMING VICTIM!
GEORGE! IT'S COMING FOR US!
DON'T LOOK! THIS IS THE END!
BUT AS IT RAISED ITS ARMS WITH THE LUST TO KILL, A PAROXYSM OF COUGHING SEIZED IT--AND SUDDENLY IT DISENTEGRATED!!
LATER AS THEY VIEWED THE SLIMEY DECAYING REMAINS...
GEORGE... WHAT HAPPENED?
OUR RAREFIED AIR SHREDDED IT TO PIECES! IT WAS DEAD FOR CENTURIES... AND COULDN'T SURVIVE OUR CLIMATE! POOR HUGH DIED FOR NOTHING!
THE END

HEH... HEH... HEH... SALUTATIONS SINNERS! COME, STEP INSIDE MY STEAMING CAULDRON AND LET ME BREW YOU AN APPETIZING LITTLE PLATE OF HORROR!
INVITATION FROM A VAMPIRE
OUR TALE OF TERROR OPENS IN A SWANK NIGHT CLUB...
WILL THERE BE ANYTHING ELSE, MR. LAKE?
OF COURSE, ANDRE, MORE CHAMPAGNE!
FREDDY, YOU'RE SUCH A DARLING!
OH, YES, FREDDY WAS A REAL SPORT... AND THE GIRLS LOVED HIM...
FREDDY, HONEY, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GO OUT OF TOWN AGAIN?
BABY, IF I DIDN'T GO OUT OF TOWN, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN!

ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING FREDDY BOARDED A TRAIN FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE...
WHEW! WHAT A WEEK... ANOTHER TWO DAYS AND I'D HAVE BEEN FLAT BROKE!
JUST TO KEEP YOU WELL INFORMED, DEAR READER, FREDDY LAKE WAS A GIGOLO...
It's so hard to believe that you'll be here soon, darling! Your beloved can hardly wait! Lucy
UGH, WHAT A PIG! WHY IS IT THAT ALL THESE RICH DAMES ARE AS UGLY AS SIN!
FREDDY'S "ROMANCE" WITH LUCY CROMWELL HAD BEEN CONDUCTED THROUGH THE MAILS!
FREDDY! FREDDY! DARLING!
(GULP) L-LUCY, LUCY, MY DEAREST!
UGH! SHE'S WORST THAN HER PICTURE!
HEH... HEH... HEH... FREDDY, THOUGH REVOLTED, PLAYED HIS ROLE OF LOVER WELL AND A SHORT TIME LATER...
LUCY, YOU CAN'T KEEP ME WAITING ANY LONGER! YOU MUST MARRY ME... AND SOON!
OH, YES, FREDDY! YES, MY DARLING!
THE WEDDING WAS HELD A WEEK LATER, AND DURING THEIR HONEYMOON, FREDDY LAID A PLAN FOR DOING AWAY WITH HIS NEW "BRIDE"...
ISN'T THIS JUST HEAVENLY, MY DEAREST?
SURE, LUCY!
SHE'S DRIVING ME NUTS! I'D LIKE TO SLIT HER THROAT! IF ONLY... HEY! THAT'S IT!
ON THE FOLLOWING NIGHT THE SHIP RAN INTO A TREMENDOUS SQUALL AND FREDDY WAS ABLE TO PROCEED WITH HIS PLAN...
I-I FEEL A LITTLE SICK, DARLING...M-MAYBE I'LL SKIP DINNER!
YES, LUCY... I'M SURE YOU'LL MISS THE DINNER!

F-FREDDY DEAR, YOUR VOICE SOUNDS S-SO STRANGE! W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
I MEAN, MY DEAR REVOLTING WIFE, THAT YOU'LL BE DEAD!

A-A KNIFE... FREDDY YOU'VE GONE CRAZY...
NO, LUCY, YOU WERE CRAZY TO THINK I LOVED YOU...

LUCY'S SCREAMS WERE HIDDEN BY THE TUMULT OF THE STORM...
AGHRRR

AND THEN SHE STOPPED SCREAMING...
I'M GLAD SHE'S DEAD... UGLY WITCH! NOW TO GET RID OF THE BODY AND I'M A FREE MAN... WITH A NICE INHERITANCE!

THE STORM SERVED TWO PURPOSES... IT HID LUCY'S CRIES AND HELPED FREDDY DISPOSE OF HER BODY...
GOOD THING I DIDN'T GET ANY BLOOD ON ME!

LUCY'S BODY HIT THE WATER WITH A SPLASH...

BACK ON THE SHIP FREDDY WAS YELLING FOR "HELP"...
HELP! HELP! M-MY WIFE... SHE FELL OVERBOARD... HELP!

AS FREDDY HAD BANKED ON, THE VALIANT CREW WAS UNABLE TO RECOVER LUCY'S BODY...

IT'S NO USE CAPTAIN! WE CAN'T EVEN LAUNCH A LIFEBOAT IN THIS STORM!

I'M SORRY, MR. LAKE! I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!

I--I UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN! M-MY POOR LUCY...

A MONTH LATER FREDDY RECEIVED A CHECK FROM LUCY'S LAWYERS AND HEADED BACK TO NEW YORK...

NOT BAD! $15,000 FOR A MONTH'S WORK! WHAT A RACKET... THIS IS THE FORTH DAME IN A YEAR!

AS FREDDY WAITED FOR HIS TRAIN TO ARRIVE, HIS MIND WENT BACK TO THE OTHER THREE "MRS. LAKES"... WHO HAD ALSO MET "UNFORTUNATE" ACCIDENTS...

BUT FREDDY HAD DONE WELL WITHOUT ALL HIS WIVES... HEH, HEH, HEH, HE PREFERRED THEIR MONEY TO THEIR LIVES...

HERE, MARGO, BUY YOURSELF A LITTLE PRESENT! I LOVE TO SEE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS HAPPY!

FREDDY, DARLING YOU'RE AN ANGEL!

TWO MONTHS LATER FREDDY WAS ONCE AGAIN ALMOST BROKE! AN ADVERTISEMENT IN ONE OF THE PAPERS SUPPLIED HIM WITH A NEW LEAD...

AH, THAT'S FOR ME! I'LL WRITE HER TONIGHT!

Older woman seeks attractive male companion. Lots of money to spend on the right person. Apply box 625, long Gate, R I

OUR GIGOLO WAS WELL VERSED IN THE WAYS OF CHARMING A WOMAN, AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE RECEIVED THE ANSWER HE HAD EXPECTED...

..."MY SERVANT WILL MEET YOU AT THE TRAIN, DEAR BOY! I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT HOME! LOVE, LYDIA"!

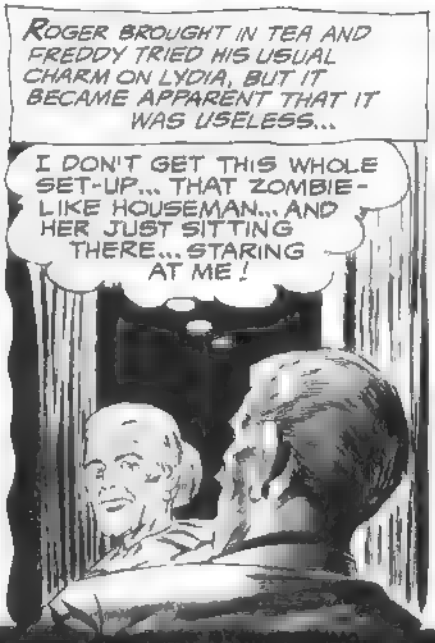
AS SHE HAD PROMISED IN HER LETTER, LYDIA SHERMAN'S SERVANT GREETED FREDDY AT THE STATION...
MR. LAKE, I AM ROGER, MRS. SHERMAN'S HOUSEMAN!
FINE, I'M ALL SET!
SO IT'S MRS. SHERMAN, IS IT? THE OLD GIRL MUST HAVE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE!

FREDDY SETTLED BACK INTO THE DEEP CUSHIONS OF A BIG CAR AS ROGER, DROVE HIM "HOME"...
WHAT A CREEP THIS GUY IS! BUT GET A LOAD OF THIS PLACE... THE HAG MUST BE FILTHY RICH!

HEH, HEH, HEH, FREDDY WAS TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS OWN GREEDY THOUGHTS TO HEAR THE FINALITY WITH WHICH THE GATES LEADING INTO SHERMAN HALL, CLOSED..
BANG!

LYDIA SHERMAN WELCOMED HER "DEAR BOY" IN THE LIBRARY OF THE SPACIOUS, BUT FOREBODING HOUSE...
LYDIA, LYDIA, MY ANGEL, HOW I'VE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS MEETING! I...
GOOD EVENING, FREDDY! SIT DOWN AND I'LL ORDER TEA...

AT FIRST, FREDDY THOUGHT THAT LYDIA'S ALOOF AIR WAS CAUSED BY SHYNESS...
DARLING, YOU MUSTN'T BE AFRAID OF ME! I LOVE YOU AND...
I'M NOT AT ALL AFRAID OF YOU, FREDDY... I'D PREFER... HOWEVER, THAT YOU DIDN'T COME NEAR ME!


ROGER BROUGHT IN TEA AND FREDDY TRIED HIS USUAL CHARM ON LYDIA, BUT IT BECAME APPARENT THAT IT WAS USELESS...
I DON'T GET THIS WHOLE SET-UP... THAT ZOMBIE-LIKE HOUSEMAN... AND HER JUST SITTING THERE... STARING AT ME!

AS THE HOURS PASSED FREDDY BECAME MORE AND MORE PUZZLED!
SHE HASN'T SAID TEN WORDS SINCE I GOT HERE! CRIPES, THIS PLACE IS GIVING ME THE CREEPS...

AFTER DINNER FREDDY WAS USHERED TO HIS ROOM...
THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM SIR!
THANKS, LOOK, ROGER, THAT OLD DAME NEVER OPENS HER TRAP... AND WHAT BECAME OF MISTER SHERMAN?
MR. SHERMAN PASSED ON BECAUSE OF A... ER... A BLOOD DISORDER! MADAM IS OFTEN SILENT!
AS HE PREPARED FOR BED FREDDY WAS SURPRISED TO FIND HE WAS TIRED EVEN THOUGH THE HOUR WAS EARLY...
FUNNY... I HAVEN'T DONE A THING ALL DAY AND YET I'M DEAD TIRED!
THE GIGOLO IMMEDIATELY FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP... SO DEEP THAT HE DIDN'T HEAR HIS DOOR OPEN...
ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING WHEN HE WENT DOWN TO BREAKFAST...
DID YOU SLEEP WELL, SIR?
LIKE A TON OF BRICKS... WHERE'S MRS. SHERMAN? ISN'T SHE COMING DOWN TO BREAKFAST?
NO, SIR, SHE REMAINS IN HER ROOM UNTIL EVENING!
WITH A FACE LIKE THAT, I DON'T BLAME HER!
FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS THE SAME ROUTINE PREVAILED! FREDDY SAW LYDIA ONLY IN THE EVENINGS...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? I'M ALWAYS TIRED... I'M LOSING WEIGHT, TOO! SOMETHING FUNNY'S GOING ON HERE?

FEARING THAT HIS FOOD MIGHT BE POISONED, FREDDY DELIBERATELY ATE ONLY WHAT LYDIA ATE...

YOUR COFFEE, SIR!

SKIP IT... I DON'T WANT ANY!

MAYBE THAT'S IT... SHE *NEVER* DRINKS COFFEE!

THAT NIGHT, UNLIKE OTHER NIGHTS, FREDDY UNABLE TO SLEEP...

THAT OLD WITCH HAS BEEN DOPING ME... BUT, WHY? I DON'T GET IT... *HEY!* THE D-DOOR, IT'S OPENING!

HEH, HEH, HEH, NOT KNOWING WHAT ELSE TO DO FREDDY FEIGNED SLEEP AS LYDIA AND ROGER SILENTLY ENTERED HIS ROOM...

BUT IS IT WISE MADAME? HE DID NOT DRINK THE COFFEE... HE MAY AWAKEN!

IT CANNOT BE HELPED, ROGER... *I MUST HAVE IT!*

FREDDY SUDDENLY FELT HIS THROAT CLUTCHED IN A VISE-LIKE GRASP!

M-MY GOD! YOU'RE A VAMPIRE! D-DON'T! GET AWAY FROM ME!

BUT I CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM YOU, DEAR BOY... I NEED YOU... NEED YOU BADLY!

IN HIS TERRIFIED DAZE THE WHOLE HIDEOUS TRUTH WAS FINALLY CLEAR TO FREDDY... HE UNDERSTOOD, MR. SHERMAN'S DEATH!

YOU KILLED YOUR HUSBAND... BY DRAINING OFF ALL HIS BLOOD!

YES, MY DEAR, YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT YOU'RE YOUNG! YOU'LL LAST LONGER THAN POOR ALFRED DID!

FREDDY WRITHED IN AGONY AS LYDIA'S SHARP FANGS SANK INTO HIS THROAT...

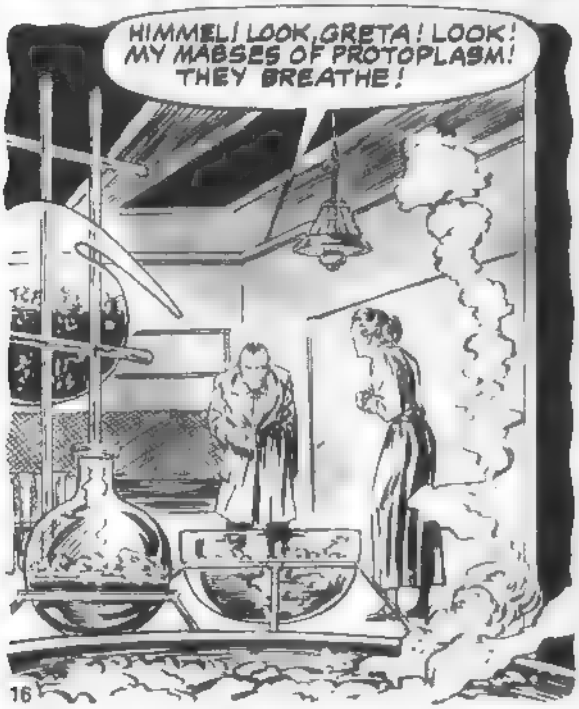
THAT WAS SIX MONTHS AGO... NOW FREDDY'S SCREAMS AREN'T AS LOUD... HIS RESISTANCE IS LOW... HE'S DOOMED AND HE KNOWS IT...

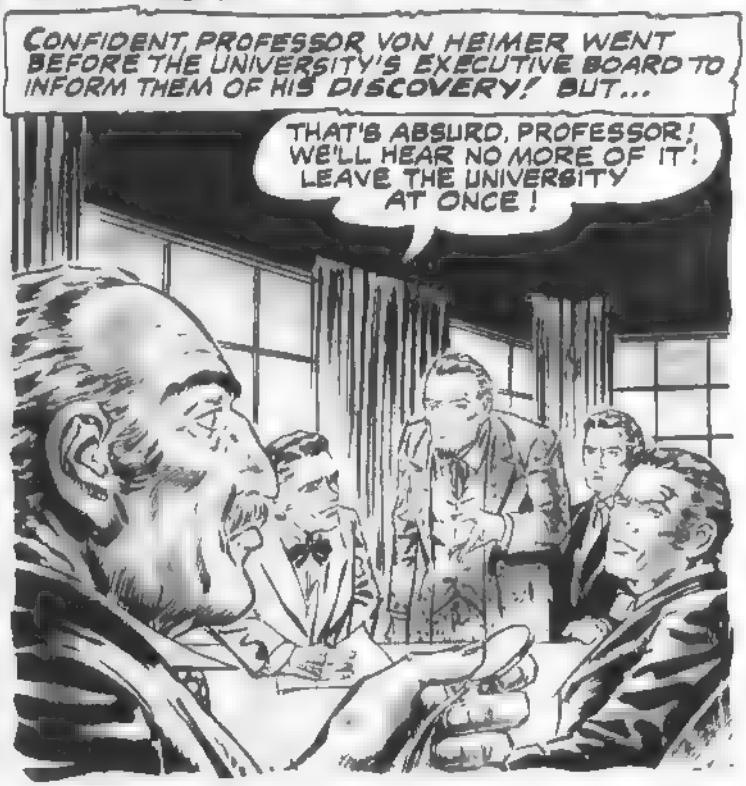
I-IS IT TIME AGAIN, LYDIA?

YES, DEAR BOY... IT'S TIME AGAIN!

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH IN THE YEAR 1871, ECCENTRIC, GENIUS, PROFESSOR CARL VON HEIMER, DISCOVERED WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE SECRET OF LIFE!... THE MYSTERY THAT HAS DEFIED SCIENTISTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME...

THE BLOOD-SUCKER





ALTHOUGH BITTER, VON HEIMER DID NOT LEAVE! ACCOMPANIED BY HIS HOUSEKEEPER, GRETA, HE TRANSFERRED HIS EQUIPMENT TO A BLEAK, MEDIEVAL CHAMBER IN THE UNIVERSITY...TO CONTINUE HIS WORK!

THEY LIVE, GRETA! THE SECRET OF LIFE IS MINE! HA-HA!

BUT, THAT EVENING, AFTER VON HEIMER HAD LEFT HIS WORK, ONE OF THE GRUESOME LIVING THINGS SLITHERED NOISELESSLY OUT OF ITS CONFINES...

AAHHGGRR...

THE NEXT MORNING...
HIMMEL! GONE!

FEARING THE WORST, VON HEIMER RUSHES TO GRETA'S ROOM...
NO! NO!

AIEHH!

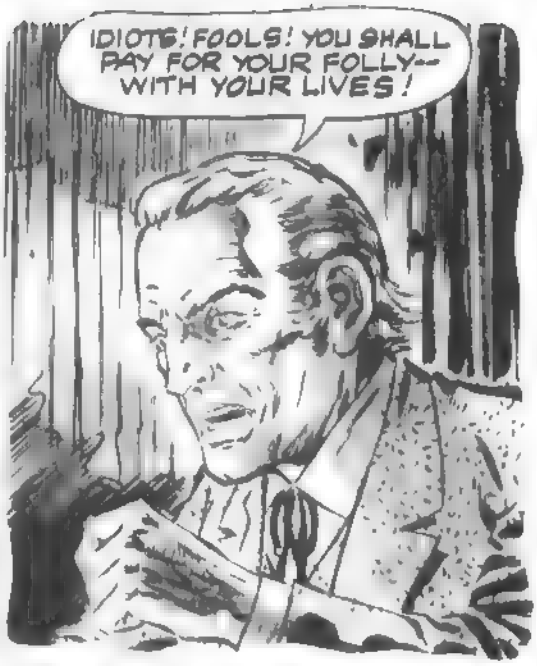
STRICKEN WITH SHOCK AND CONFUSION, HE LOCKS THE MONSTER IN THE ROOM...
IT HAS SUCKED HER BLOOD! I HADN'T EXPECTED THIS!

BUT VON HEIMER'S MIND SOON ACCUSTOMS ITSELF TO THE HABITS OF HIS HIDEOUS MONSTERS!
THEY THRIVE WELL ON HUMAN BLOOD, SO THEY SHALL HAVE IT!

AIEEE!

AGHH-RRRR...

HIS PERSPECTIVE BLURRED BY TRIUMPH AND HATRED, VON HEIMER AGAIN GOES BEFORE THE BOARD TO PLEAD FOR HIS THEORIES...
FOR THE LAST TIME...NO! IF YOU DON'T LEAVE, I'LL BE FORCED TO HAVE YOU THROWN IN JAIL!


IDIOTS! FOOLS! YOU SHALL PAY FOR YOUR FOLLY-- WITH YOUR LIVES!

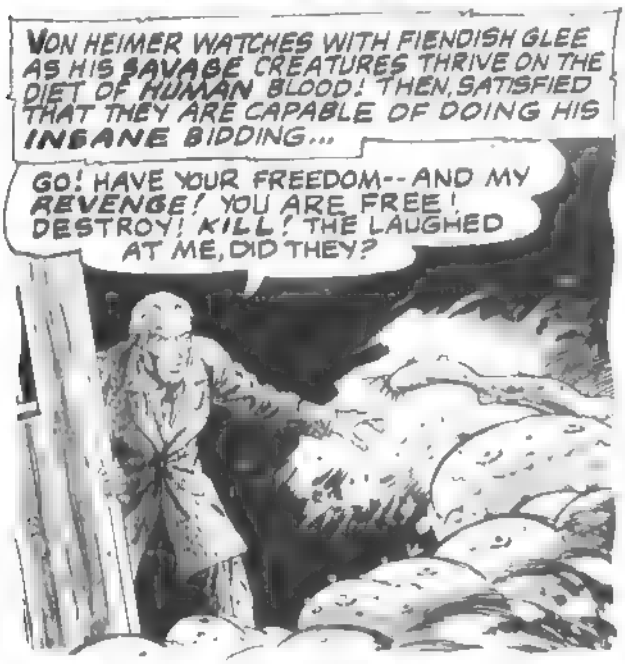
AND THAT EVENING, WHILE VON HEIMER SLEEPS...

BUT THE FREEZING SNOW OF THE GERMAN WINTER IS TOO MUCH FOR THE MONSTER TO WITHSTAND AND IT DIED SILENTLY...
NO! NO! THE FOOL!

WITH THE DEATH OF THE ORIGINAL MONSTER... VON HEIMER VOWS THAT HIS OTHER CREATURES SHALL SURVIVE!
SURELY YOU WOULD LIKE TO WATCH ME WORK, GENTLEMEN!

YES! YOU WILL DIE! BUT FOR SCIENCE...AND FOR THE LIVES THAT I HAVE CREATED!

AIEEE!
AGGRRH...
YAGRH...


VON HEIMER WATCHES WITH FIENDISH GLEE AS HIS SAVAGE CREATURES THRIVE ON THE DIET OF HUMAN BLOOD! THEN, SATISFIED THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF DOING HIS INSANE BIDDING...
GO! HAVE YOUR FREEDOM--AND MY REVENGE! YOU ARE FREE! DESTROY! KILL! THE LAUGHED AT ME, DID THEY?

SOUNDLESSLY, THE OOZING HORDE ENGULFS THE UNIVERSITY'S CLASSROOMS AND DEAL OUT ITS HORRIBLE DEATH...
YAH-H!
AIEEE...

AIIEEE...

AS IF GUIDED BY THE GHOULISH VENGEANCE OF THEIR CREATOR, THE MONSTERS OOZES ITS WAY TO THE BOARD ROOM...
AIEE!
HIMMEL!

BENT ON FURTHER DESTRUCTION... AND THEIR **LUST** FOR **HUMAN BLOOD** UNSATISFIED, THE MONSTERS CRAWL OFF IN MANY DIRECTIONS... SO FINDING THEIR WAY INTO THE SNOW...

...TO THEIR BELATED DEATH... IN SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES... AS THE PROFESSOR LOOKS ON IN HELPLESS ANGUISH...

AND WITH NO OTHER LIFE REMAINING, THE CREATURES NOW TURN INEVITABLY UPON VON HEIMER HIMSELF!!

THE SCHWEIN...I MUST GET TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER!

HIS FEVERISH BODY WRACKED WITH FEAR, VON HEIMER ASCENDS THE STEPS TO THE STEEPLE...

NO! NO!

AGGGHRR!!

THE MONSTERS LIVE JUST LONG ENOUGH TO EXTRACT THE LAST OUNCE OF BLOOD FROM HIS BODY...THEN THEY THEMSELVES ARE DESTROYED BY THE FRIGID ATMOSPHERE...

AND SO, THE SECRET OF LIFE DIED WITH ITS CRAZED DISCOVERER WHO LEFT NOTHING TO SHOW FOR HIS WORK BUT HIS OWN BLOOD-DRAINED BODY!!
THE END

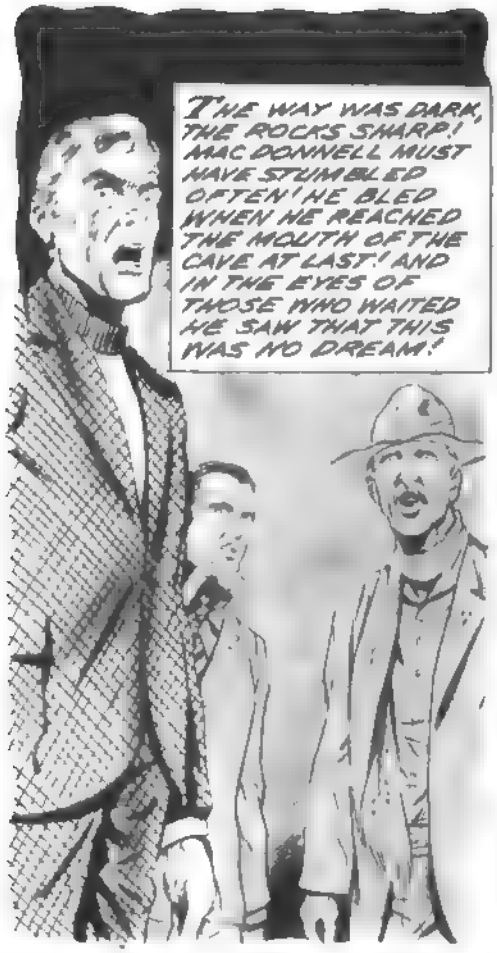
SURE, AND THE MAN WAS A FOOL TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH---
THE CREATURES
THEY TELL THE TALE STILL ON SCOTTISH MOORS NEAR THE TOWN OF CRAGHEAD. THE TALE OF RORY MACDONNELL AND THAT NIGHT AT THE LION PUB, WHEN THE TALK TURNED TO THINGS NOT IN OUR KEN...
LITTLE PEOPLE? LITTLE PEOPLE, IS IT? THERE ARE NO LITTLE PEOPLE!
RORY- HUSH. YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK!

HAVE I, NOW? SO IT'S OUT OF BOTTLE COURAGE YOU THINK I SPEAK, EH? THIS IS RORY MACDONNELL, AND I FEAR NO MAN, BIG OR LITTLE!
IT'S BEST TO FEAR WHAT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND. MY FATHER WAS AFRAID OF CRAGHEAD CAVE, AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM. WHO KNOWS WHAT LIVES INSIDE IT?
BAH! THERE ARE NO LITTLE PEOPLE! AND IF THERE WERE, I'D STILL HAVE NO FEAR OF THEM! D'YA HEAR THAT, LITTLE MEN? IF YOU EXIST... DO YOUR WORK!
HE PAID NO MIND TO THE STRANGER WHO JUST THEN ENTERED! BUT THE STRANGER MUST HAVE HEARD!
YOU'RE A MAN OF RARE COURAGE, RORY... TO HEAR YOU TELL IT! BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WORDS SHOULD BE BACKED BY DEEDS!
DOES IT, TRULY? YOU KNOW MY NAME, BUT JUST WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
A TRAVELER! BUT I'VE HEARD OF CRAGHEAD CAVE! I'VE HEARD IT'S WHERE THE LITTLE PEOPLE LIVE! YOU'VE BEEN INSIDE THE CAVE, I TAKE IT?
NOT HIM! HE'S ALL WIND AND NO SUBSTANCE!
WHO SAID THAT?
WHAT MATTER? THEY'RE ONLY VOICES IN A CROWD, RORY! BUT WHY NOT SHOW THEM? PROVE YOUR WORTH! THE CAVE IS NOT FAR!

AND D'YOU THINK I'M AFTER PLAYIN' CHILDS GAMES THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
YOU MIGHT BE HIDING YOUR FEAR BEHIND THIS LOUD BLATHER!
WORDS ARE CHEAP! WILL YOU WAGER TWENTY SHILLINGS, RORY MACDONNEL, THAT YOU FEAR TO SPEND THIS NIGHT IN CRAGHEAD CAVE!
THERE WERE THOSE WHO WAITED FOR RORY TO REFUSE.. THAT THEY MIGHT THROW HIS BOASTING INTO HIS TEETH... NOW, THEN, COULD HE SAY NO?
DONE! FOR TWENTY SHILLINGS I'D FACE THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
DONE IT IS, THEN! AND WHO KNOWS, PERHAPS BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS OVER... YOU'LL DO JUST THAT
THEY POURED INTO THE NIGHT THEN A NOISY LAUGHING CROWD! BUT THERE WERE THOSE WITH COOLER HEADS THAN THE REST!
THERE IT IS, RORY! PERHAPS THE TALES ARE ONLY THAT, TALES! BUT PERHAPS NOT! FORGET THIS WAGER! NO MAN HAS ENTERED THE CAVE FOR YEARS!
THAT'S BECAUSE UNTIL TODAY, NO MAN LIKE RORY MACDONNELL HAS PASSED THIS WAY!
WELL SPOKEN, MAC DONNEL, BUT OUR WAGER WAS THAT YOU SPEND THE NIGHT INSIDE!
AND I WILL... I'LL BRING YOU BACK A LITTLE MAN FOR A PET!
ONLY A MAN IN HIS CUPS WOULD HAVE GONE ON THEN! CRAGHEAD CAVE WAS DOUR AND FORBIDDING! BUT RORY MACDONNEL PLUNGED INTO THAT EMPTY BLACKNESS!
THE COLD IS ENOUGH TO FREEZE A MANS BONES!

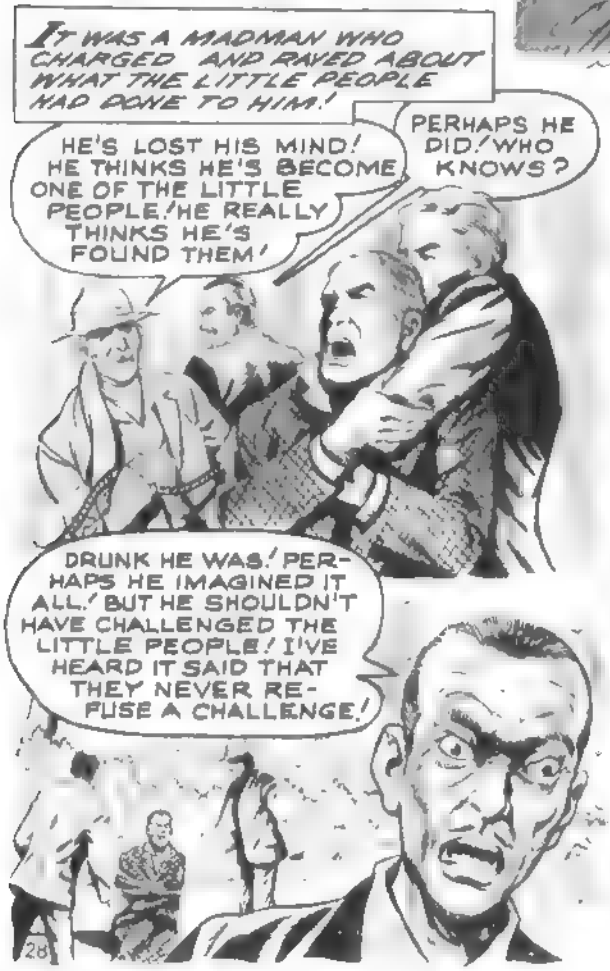
COLD? TWAS NOT COLD, BUT FEAR THAT CHILLED MAC DONNELL! YET, HE WENT ON, FEARING THE LAUGHTER OF HIS FRIENDS MORE THAN HE FEARED THE CAVE! SUDDENLY, HE WAS UPON THEM!
THE LITTLE PEOPLE! THE TALES ARE NOT JUST TALES! THEY EXIST!
WOULD YOU RUN, THEN, MAN? FROM WHAT? WE WISH YOU NO HARM! WE SHALL NOT PUT A HAND ON YOU! MY WORD ON IT! COME.. DRINK WITH US!
UGLY, THEY WERE! HORRIBLE! SOME LIKE TOADS! OTHERS LIKE NOTHING THAT LIVES! BUT, THEY SMILED! THEY WERE FRIENDLY! AND WHAT WAS IN THOSE FLASKS WAS LIKE A MAGNET TO RORY MAC DONNELL!
IT'S ALMOST SOBER YOU ARE! A BAD STATE FOR SUCH A MAN AS YOU! DRINK WITH US!
THAT MAKES THINGS BETTER, EH? DRINK DEEPLY! WHY NOT? YOU ARE AMONG FRIENDS, RORY MAC DONNELL!
THERE WAS NO MAGIC! THIS WAS NO EVIL! THESE LITTLE MEN. THEY KNEW THEIR BETTERS! SO, REASONED RORY MACDONNELL! THE HOURS SPED BY, AND IT SEEMED TO HIM HE WAS A KING!
FRIENDS?
I HAVE TOLD YOU, NOT A FINGER SHALL TOUCH YOU! COME, JOIN THE DANCE! BE GAY, BE HAPPY! WHAT ELSE IS THERE IN LIFE?
IT IS A GOOD LIFE WE LEAD, IS IT NOT, RORY MAC DONNELL? IT SUITS YOU WELL!
WELL ENOUGH! SO LONG AS YOU KEEP YOUR PLACE! THE NIGHT HAS BEEN PLEASANT! A PITY IT WILL SOON BE DAWN! THEN I MUST LEAVE!

BUT THERE WILL BE OTHER NIGHTS! 'TIS A GREAT ADMIRATION WE HAVE FOR YOU, MAC DONNEL! WILL YOU BE ONE OF US, THEN?
THAT I WILL! HERE IS MY HAND ON IT!
IT SEEMED TO RORY THAT THERE WAS A A GREAT RUSTLING SOUND OF WINGS! THEN, IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE FIRE-LIGHT DIED... THAT THE UGLY FACES AROUND HIM TWISTED AND SNARLED...
WHAT... IS IT? THE WINE! IT'S CLOUDED MY EYES! YOU . YOU SEEM DIFFERENT... TALLER!
TALLER? WE ARE NOT TALLER, MACDONNEL! WE HAVE NOT CHANGED, BUT YOU HAVE!
DID YOU NOT SAY THAT YOU WISHED TO BE ONE OF US? COURAGE DESERVES A REWARD MAC DONNEL! EVEN THE COURAGE OF A BRAGGART!
YOU ARE TRULY ONE OF US, NOW!
GONE WAS THE HANDSOME BODY! GONE, THE POWERFUL SHOULDERS, THE MASSIVE ARMS! WHAT WAS REFLECTED IN THE WEIRD, STRANGELY WORKED GLASS WAS... HORROR! MAC DONNELL SCREAMED... AND RAN!
THE LITTLE PEOPLE DO EXIST, DO THEY NOT, MAC DONNELL?


THE WAY WAS DARK, THE ROCKS SHARP! MAC DONNELL MUST HAVE STUMBLED OFTEN! HE BLED WHEN HE REACHED THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE AT LAST! AND IN THE EYES OF THOSE WHO WAITED HE SAW THAT THIS WAS NO DREAM!

RORY! WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE?
RORY, DON'T YOU KNOW US?

IT WAS THEN THAT RORY CHARGED! KNOWING ONLY ONE THING. THAT HE MUST GET AWAY FROM THOSE STARING EYES! HOW COULD HE KNOW THAT THE GLASS HAD LIED!
THAT BLOOD! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU...
LOOK OUT! THE MAN'S GONE DAFT!


IT WAS A MADMAN WHO CHARGED AND RAVED ABOUT WHAT THE LITTLE PEOPLE HAD DONE TO HIM!
HE'S LOST HIS MIND! HE THINKS HE'S BECOME ONE OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE! HE REALLY THINKS HE'S FOUND THEM!
PERHAPS HE DID! WHO KNOWS?
DRUNK HE WAS! PERHAPS HE IMAGINED IT ALL! BUT HE SHOULDN'T HAVE CHALLENGED THE LITTLE PEOPLE! I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT THEY NEVER REFUSE A CHALLENGE!

POOR LAD! HE'S INSANE! HE'LL NEVER BE TELLING THE TRUTH OF WHAT HE SAW IN CRAGHEAD CAVE, NOW, WILL HE?
THE STRANGER WALKED AWAY, THEN! AND IT SEEMED THAT HE CHANGED, BUT NONE NOTICED! SO.. THE TALE IS TOLD...
THE END
CRAGHEAD CAVE BROODS UNDISTURBED TO THIS DAY! AND, WHO IS TO SAY.. WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO RORY MAC DONNELL?

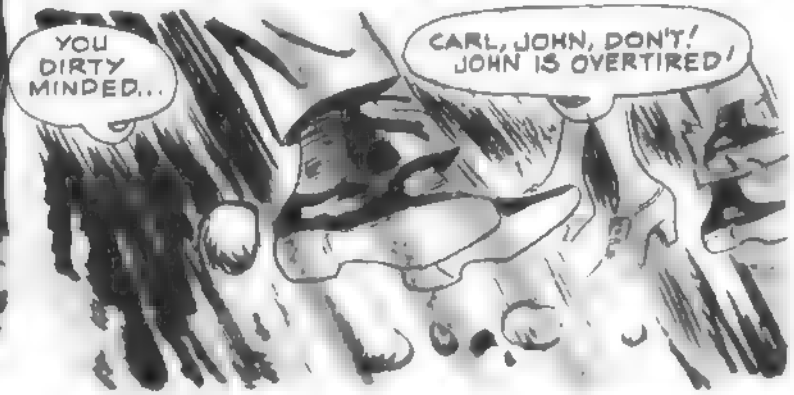
Superstitions

THE SKULL

AS MARTHA HARDY TOLD THE STORY, IT WAS CARL MORTON WHO FOUND THE SKULL JUST OFF A DIRT ROAD SOME FORTY-FIVE MILES FROM THE CITY OF MADRID, SPAIN, ON A COLD, WET NIGHT IN FEBRUARY, 1934!
MR. PORTER! LOOK AT THIS! IT WAS STICKING UP OUT OF THE MUD...
WHATEVER IT IS, IT CAN WAIT! I HAVE A LECTURE TO DELIVER AT THE INSTITUTE IN MADRID TOMORROW! AND WE'RE LOST! HOW FAR DO WE STILL HAVE TO TRAVEL?
NINETY KILOMETERS! BUT PORTER, I'VE BEEN WITH YOU LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW A FOSSIL WHEN I SEE ONE!
YOU'RE A MAN OF MANY TALENTS, CARL! LET ME SEE THAT...
PORTER WAS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST, MORTON WAS HIS MANAGER... AND MARTHA HARDY WAS HIS SECRETARY AS WELL AS HIS FIANCEE! ALL THREE WERE TIRED AND TENSE! EUROPEAN LECTURE TOURS ARE NOT EASY! THAT WAS TO BE IMPORTANT LATER!
WELL?
IT CAN'T BE! BUT IT IS! LOOK AT THE EYE RIDGES! THE TEETH!.. THERE CAN'T BE ANY DOUBT! IT'S INCREDIBLE!
THIS IS THE SKULL OF NEANDERTHAL MAN! HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD! BUT . SUCH THINGS JUST AREN'T FOUND THIS WAY!
THIS ONE WAS! THE RAIN MUST HAVE WASHED AWAY THE EARTH AROUND IT!
THERE'S WHAT PROBABLY KILLED HIM... THAT HOLE BETWEEN THE EYES! I CAN SEE THE HEADLINES! ANTHROPOLOGIST FINDS MILLION YEAR OLD MURDER VICTIM!
LET'S NOT OVERDO IT, CARL!

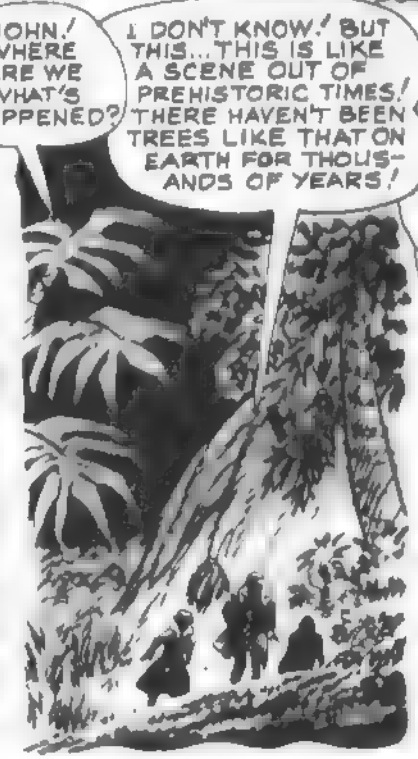
OKAY, PORTER WHAT'S EATING YOU...GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST!
AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT'S BOTHERING ME.. IT'S MARTHA!

I? JOHN! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T KNOW, MY MANAGER AND MY FIANCEE SNEAKING OFF TOGETHER!


YOU DIRTY MINDED...
CARL, JOHN, DON'T! JOHN IS OVERTIRED!

AS MARTHA TOLD IT AFTERWARD, THERE WAS NOTHING BETWEEN HER AND CARL BUT THE DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE! THERE WAS A STRUGGLE, AND THE EMBANKMENT WAS SOFT, MUDDY!

MARTHA COULD NEVER EXPLAIN IT...SHE KNEW ONLY THAT THE EARTH GAVE WAY...THAT SUDDENLY SHE WAS TUMBLING INTO ANOTHER WORLD!
JOHN! CARL! LOOK!
GREAT SCOTT! I SEE IT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!


JOHN! WHERE ARE WE WHAT'S HAPPENED?
I DON'T KNOW! BUT THIS...THIS IS LIKE A SCENE OUT OF PREHISTORIC TIMES! THERE HAVEN'T BEEN TREES LIKE THAT ON EARTH FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS!

IT'S A GOOD TRY, JOHN, BUT IT WON'T WORK! I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU SAID!
NO, CARL, DON'T BE A FOOL...OUR PERSONAL DIFFERENCES CAN WAIT! SOMETHING IS WRONG! THIS IS SPAIN... FEBRUARY! BUT... IT'S WARM! I THINK WE'D BETTER TRY TO FIND THE CAR!

THERE HAD TO BE AN EXPLANATION... OF COURSE... BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE FOUND AT THE TOP OF THE SLOPE!
GONE! THE ROAD, THE CAR EVEN THE SKULL! IT'S AS IF WE'D GONE BACK IN TIME!
PERHAPS WE HAVE! MY MIND SAYS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WE CAN'T ALL BE HAVING THE SAME HALUCINATIONS!
BACK IN TIME, MY EYE! I DON'T GET IT EITHER! BUT LETS START WALKING! THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE!
NO! WE'LL BE SAFER IF WE WAIT FOR DAYLIGHT... THERE WAS AN OPENING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE EMBANKMENT.. MAYBE A CAVE! WE CAN SPEND THE NIGHT THERE! WE'VE GOT TO THINK THIS OUT!
BUT NOW DOES ANYONE THINK OUT THE IMPOSSIBLE?
JOHN, I'M FRIGHTENED! YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE THINGS! YOU CAN'T REALLY MEAN WE'VE STUMBLED BACK IN TIME... TELL ME YOU'RE JOKING!
MAYBE HE WASN'T JOKING, MARTHA! I FOUND THESE AT THE BACK OF THE CAVE!
A FLINT KNIFE AND AN AXE! THESE ARE STONE AGE WEAPONS!
I KNOW! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE NOW! IF THERE'S A WAY BACK, WE'D BETTER FIND IT... FAST!
CARL STUMBLED FROM THE CAVE! THE OTHERS FOLLOWED.
JOHN... JOHN! THAT'S CARL!
YA-AA AAA
AND IN PAIN.. HORRIBLE PAIN! COME ON!
A GUN! JOHN, YOU HAVE A GUN!
I WAS GOING TO USE IT ON CARL! I'VE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND WITH JEALOUSY! BUT THAT DOESN'T SEEM IMPORTANT NOW!

CARL WAS JUST A FEW STEPS AWAY IN THE UNDERBRUSH!
CARL, WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S HORRIBLE! THAT THING... MY LEG.. THE PAIN!
HE'S FAINTED... AND NO WONDER... BOTH HIS LEGS ARE BROKEN... M-MARTHA! BEHIND YOU!
RUN! RUN!
THERE WAS NO PURSUIT... BUT MARTHA AND JOHN RAN UNTIL THEY COULD RUN NO MORE...
JOHN, WHAT WAS IT? IT LOOKED LIKE A MAN! BUT IT COULDN'T BE!
IT WAS A MAN OUT OF THE STONE AGE, MARTHA! I WAS RIGHT! SOMEHOW WE HAVE GONE INTO ANOTHER TIME!
AND I KNOW WHY CARL'S LEGS WERE BROKEN! THAT BEAST CAUGHT HIM! AND TO A CREATURE LIKE THAT... FOOD IS FOOD!
YOU THINK HE BROKE CARL'S LEGS SO CARL COULDN'T RUN AWAY! UNTIL THAT MONSTER IS HUNGRY! OH, NO!
YES, AND WE'LL BE NEXT! HE'LL COME AFTER US! WE'RE FRESH MEAT TO HIM!
WE CAN'T LEAVE CARL TO THAT THING... JOHN, YOU'RE A CIVILIZED MAN... THINK!
IN THAT TIME, IN THAT PLACE, MARTHA'S PLEA SOUNDED RIDICULOUS, BUT... SHE WAS RIGHT!
YES... I'M CIVILIZED! SO CIVILIZED THAT I WANTED TO KILL HIM OUT OF JEALOUSY... BUT NOW WHEN EVERY INSTINCT IN ME SCREAMS ESCAPE, I CAN'T LEAVE HIM!

IT TOOK UNTIL MORNING TO FIND THE CAVE.. AND SANCTUARY.
SO FAR, SO GOOD! A FEW MINUTES AND.
JOHN! HE'S HERE!
HELP! HELP!
SOMEHOW, DESPITE HIS AGONY, PORTER DID NOT LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS WHEN THE BEAST TURNED AWAY, PORTER DREW HIS GUN...
HE FIRED---AND THE THING WHATEVER IT WAS.. WHEELED IN IT'S TRACKS..

IT'S DEAD! OH, JOHN DEAR, WHAT DID IT DO TO YOU?
MY... LEGS... LIKE... CARL'S...

BUT... I SHOT IT... RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES! I KILLED IT! NOW WE KNOW, MARTHA! WE WON'T DIE WONDERING!

THAT LITTLE ROUND HOLE IN THE SKULL CARL FOUND! NOW WE KNOW WHAT MADE IT... I DID... A MILLION YEARS AGO!

A MILLION YEARS AGO!

THAT WAS WHEN MARTHA'S MIND SNAPPED. SHE FLED AWAY FROM SOMETHING SHE COULD NOT GET HER MIND TO ACCEPT! SHE RAN... UNTIL SHE COLLAPSED!

A FARMER FOUND HER, BUT IT WAS WEEKS BEFORE SHE COULD TELL HER STORY...
WELL, DOCTOR, AS YOU KNOW, WE BELIEVE SHE MURDERED HER TWO COMPANIONS! HOW ELSE COULD TWO MEN JUST VANISH? BUT THE DECISION IS YOURS! SHE IS SANE... NO?
NO, CAPTAIN! YOU HEARD HER STORY... SHE'S MAD!
THE END

THE FANGED FREAK

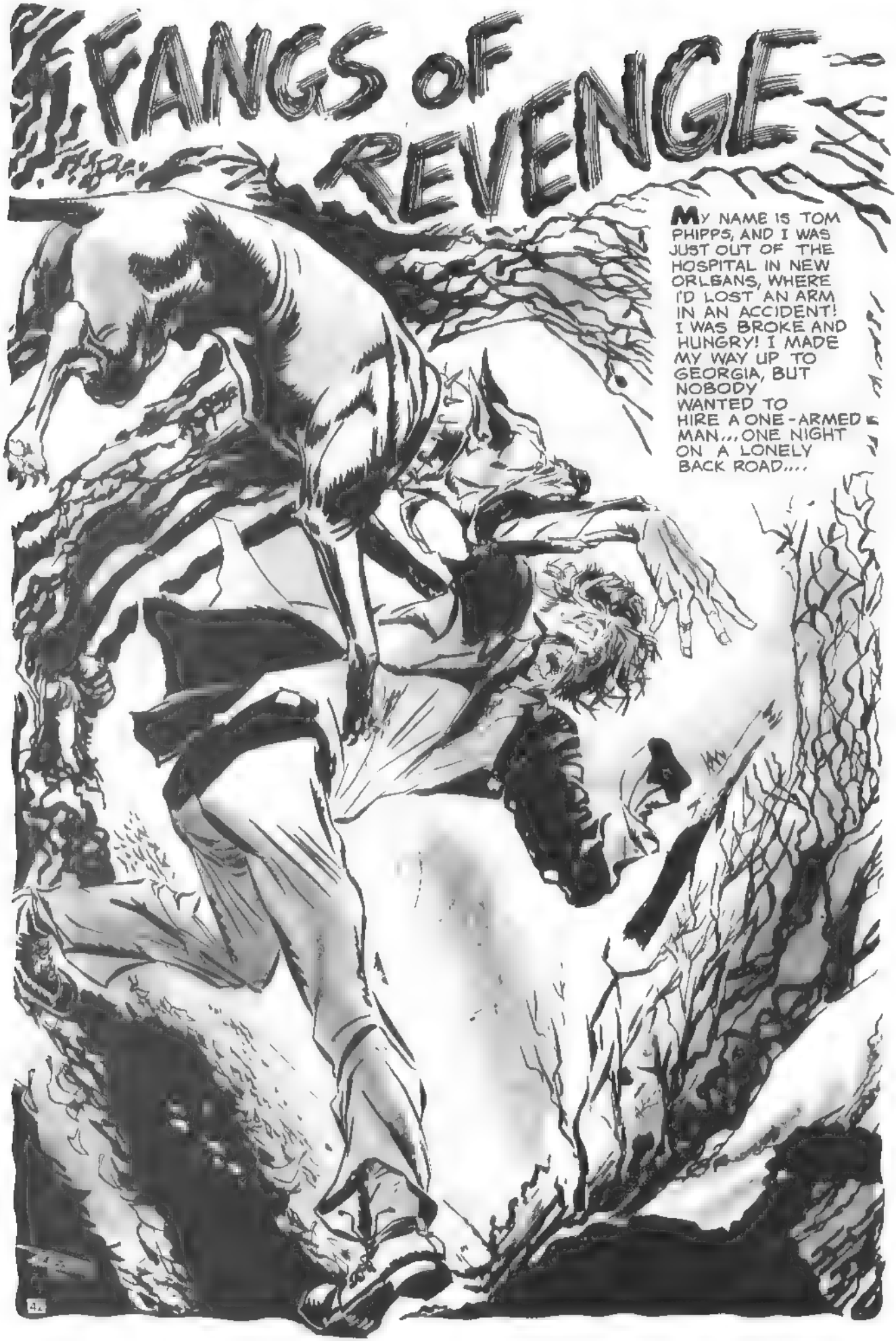
POOR FRITZ WAS A MAN TO THE END OF HIS RIB CAGE THE OTHER HALF OF HIM WAS A HOUSING FILLED WITH A COMPLEX NETWORK OF TUBES AND CHEMICALS THAT KEPT HIM ALIVE
SING LEFT THE TABLE RATHER RELUCTANTLY. HE ENJOYED PLAYING CARDS... NOWEVER LIKE THE REST OF THOSE WHO LIVED AT SANCTUARY HE HAD GOOD REASON TO SHY FROM THE GAZE OF NORMAL PEOPLE... ESPECIALLY THE RARE KIND LIKE ELENA, WHO WAS PERFECT IN FORM AND BEAUTY.
EXCUSE ME, HERR PARKER... I MUST GO NOW!
ELENA, I'M GLAD YOU SHOWED UP WHEN YOU DID!
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I'M SORRY I BOUNDED OFF LIKE THAT! I KNOW YOU AND DOC LOWRY HAVE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE A LIKING TO THOSE PETS OF YOURS!
TRY AS I MAY, I JUST CAN'T TAKE THOSE THINGS FOR TOO LONG! I TRY TO TELL MYSELF THAT THEY'VE GOT FEELINGS AND DESIRES LIKE MY OWN... BUT I SEE THEM AS THEY ARE... AND I GET SICK TO MY STOMACH!
THEY CAN'T HELP THEIR DEFORMITIES! THEY'RE ACCIDENTS OF BIRTH AND MISHAP! THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE JUST LIKE ANYBODY ELSE!
I KNOW THAT'S WHY DOC BUILT SANCTUARY... BUT HOW DID HE EVER GET YOU AS A SECRETARY TO LIVE HERE AMONG THEM?
THE DOCTOR IS DOING GREAT WORK AND NEEDS HELP!
ELENA...
IT HASN'T BEEN EASY STAYING HERE, JOHNNY... KNOWING THAT ON THE OUTSIDE THERE ARE MEN LIKE YOU.. TALL, GOOD LOOKING, GOOD TO BE NEAR!
SIMODE

I WOULDN'T HAVE COME WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF THIS PLACE IF IT WAS NOT FOR YOU! I'D FOLLOW YOU INTO HADES ITSELF IF I HAD TO...
I'VE DREAMED OF A MOMENT LIKE THIS!
JOHN! ELENA! I WAS AFRAID OF THIS!
I'M SORRY YOU FIND THIS SO SHOCKING, DOC! BUT THEN, I SUPPOSE A LITTLE THING LIKE A KISS WOULD SEEM ABNORMAL IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
DOCTOR LOWRY I. I
ELENA, ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING!
I DON'T CARE! I'M A WOMAN, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? A WOMAN WANTS TO BE LOVED! AND YOU CAN'T SHUT IT OUT NOT EVEN HERE IN SANCTUARY!
THAT'S ENOUGH, ELENA! GO NOW! I'LL SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THIS LATER!
I DON'T CARE, I TELL YOU! I DON'T CARE!
THAT WAS A NASTY WAY TO TREAT ELENA, DOC! I DON'T SEE WHY OUR MAKING LOVE SHOULD BE YOUR CONCERN!
EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN SANCTUARY IS MY AFFAIR! THE CARE OF EVERYONE HERE! I WAS HOPING TO LEAVE THAT DUTY TO YOU, JOHNNY!
BUT I NEVER SHALL, JOHNNY! YOU AREN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE JOB! YOU DIDN'T COME TO SANCTUARY TO DEDICATE YOURSELF TO THIS WORK AS I DID...

YOU CAME HERE BECAUSE OF ELENA! I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT WHEN SHE AND I MET YOU IN NEW YORK!
SO YOU'RE JEALOUS! YOU WANT ELENA FOR YOURSELF, DON'T YOU?
JOHNNY, JOHNNY, HOW I PITY YOU! ELENA IS NOT FOR ME OR YOU OR ANY MAN! DO YOU KNOW WHY I TOOK HER TO NEW YORK? WE HAD AN APPOINTMENT AT THE DENTON FOAM RUBBER COMPANY...
CAN IT, DOC, I'M NOT INTERESTED, BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING...
I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF HELD FAST IN THE GRIP OF ONE OF DOC LOWRY'S MONSTROSITIES.
I'M GOING TO TAKE ELENA OUT OF THIS FREAK MENAGERIE TONIGHT! AND IF YOU TRY TO STOP US.. I'LL KILL YOU, DOC!
HURT THE DOCTOR, AND I'LL BREAK YOU INTO LITTLE PIECES!
LET HIM GO, FELIX! JOHNNY'S LEAVING! THERE'LL BE NO MORE TROUBLE IN SANCTUARY!
YOU BLIND FOOL! CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU... ELENA.. SHE'S ..
HOURS AFTER THOSE THICK FLESHY FINGERS RELEASED ME, I SPRAWLED ON MY BED CURSING DOC LOWRY AND HIS FREAKS AND ANY OTHER OBSTACLE BETWEEN MYSELF AND ELENA.
I'M NOT GOING WITHOUT ELENA! I CAN'T LEAVE HER HERE AMONG THESE HORRORS! THERE'S NO TIME LEFT, GOT TO MAKE MY MOVE...NOW!
I TOOK A PISTOL WITH LUCK I WOULD TAKE OFF WITH ELENA IN THE HELICOPTER WHICH BROUGHT US OVER THE MOUNTAINS THAT PROTECTED SANCTUARY FROM THE WORLD OF NORMAL MEN.
WELL, HERE GOES! THIS CORRIDOR'S CLEAR. I'LL HAVE TO BE QUICK AND SILENT..

NOTHING SEEMED TO BE STIRRING, BUT I DIDN'T RELAX MY TRIGGER FINGER AS I STEALTHILY MOUNTED THE STAIRS TO ELENA'S ROOM...
I FOUND ELENA'S DOOR UNLOCKED. I EASED MYSELF INTO THE ROOM AND CLOSED THE DOOR BEHIND ME...
THE ROOM WAS DIMLY LIT...AND I STEPPED CAUTIOUSLY FORWARD SO AS NOT TO STARTLE HER AND CAUSE AN OUTCRY. SOFTLY I CALLED HER NAME BUT GOT NO ANSWER
ELENA ELENA!
AN ICY CHILL SWEPT ALONG MY SPINE AS I MADE MY WAY THROUGH THE GLOOM IN A FAR CORNER WAS A COUCH - AND WAS THAT ELENA ASLEEP UPON IT? I DREW CLOSER TO MAKE CERTAIN!
SOMEHOW MY BRAIN COULDN'T SEEM TO ABSORB THE MEANING OF THE THING THAT DRAPED CARELESSLY ACROSS THE COUCH...

IT WAS MADE OF FOAM RUBBER AND PLASTIC A SORT OF COLLAPSED, DEFLATED, FLESH-COLORED THING THAT HAD ELENA'S HAIR, FACE, ARMS AND LEGS! THE EYES WERE MERELY HOLES, LIKE THE OPENINGS OF A MASK!
THEN I REMEMBERED WHAT DOC LOWRY HAD BEEN TRYING TO SAY BEFORE I HAD CUT HIM OFF.. ABOUT HIS TRIP WITH ELENA TO THE FOAM RUBBER COMPANY AND INSIDE ME I SHRIEKED WITH THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF WHAT I WAS THINKING!
IT CAME TO ME...THE ANSWER ...CRAWLING LIKE AN UGLY SPIDER OUT OF ITS LAIR.. ELENA...SHE WAS ONE OF THEM! ONE OF LOWRY'S FREAKS!
IT..SLITS OPEN IN THE BACK..SO SOMETHING CAN PUT THIS ON AND WEAR IT.. IT'S A SUIT... THAT LOOKS LIKE ELENA!
THE SIGHT OF THE THING THAT CAME OUT OF ELENA'S BEDROOM AND SCREAMED IN HER VOICE SENT ME STAGGERING BACK WITH FEAR AND NAUSEA...AND GROPING FOR MY PISTOL!
JOHNNY! DON'T RUN FROM ME, JOHNNY...I.. I LOVE YOU, JOHNNY! I LOVE YOU!
THAT HORRIBLE PLEADING MONSTROSITY DRAGGING ITSELF TOWARD ME DROVE ME TO MADDENED FRENZY! I BEGAN BLASTING INTO ITS FACE THE MOMENT THE GUN WAS IN MY HAND!
AS I WATCHED THAT HIDEOUS FACE DISINTEGRATE INTO A RED RUIN, I HEARD MYSELF CRYING OVER THE ROAR OF THE GUN..
I CRIED FOR ELENA WHOSE BEAUTY SO AWED THE FREAKS...BUT THAT WASN'T TRUE, WAS IT...THEY RAN BECAUSE THEY SHUNNED HER BECAUSE NOT EVEN THEY COULD STAND MY ELENA... THE GREATEST HORROR OF THEM ALL!
END


FANGS OF REVENGE
MY NAME IS TOM PHIPPS, AND I WAS JUST OUT OF THE HOSPITAL IN NEW ORLEANS, WHERE I'D LOST AN ARM IN AN ACCIDENT! I WAS BROKE AND HUNGRY! I MADE MY WAY UP TO GEORGIA, BUT NOBODY WANTED TO HIRE A ONE-ARMED MAN... ONE NIGHT ON A LONELY BACK ROAD....

I SAW THE DOG IN TIME TO PICK UP A STICK....
GET AWAY, YOU CUR! GET BACK!
BUT THAT HOUND WAS BIG AND MEAN! I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE...
HEY! HELP! HELP ME SOMEONE! YOU MANGY- GAAAA-
SUDDENLY, A VOICE...
TIGER! STOP IT! OFF BOY! OFF!
GR
RRR-RR
I LOOKED UP, AND THERE WAS A WOMAN BEATING THE DOG AWAY....
I'M SO SORRY! BUT THIS IS A LONELY SPOT, AND TIGER IS OUR ONLY PROTECTION!
HE KNOWS HIS JOB!
SOME HOUND, MISS! HE'S WELL NAMED- TIGER ALMOST KILLED ME!
TIGER! YOU BRUTE! NOW YOU STAY, AWAY- GET!
I'M EMMY BAXTER! I, WE, LIVE HERE ALONE!
WE?

MY OLDER SISTER BETH, AND MYSELF! BUT COME IN AND CLEAN UP... MR...?
PHIPPS! TOM PHIPPS! I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH! I, ER, I WAS HITCHHIKING
I SEE! WELL, I'M SURE YOU COULD USE SOME EGGS AND HOT BISCUITS!
THANKS, MISS BAXTER! I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD A... I'M HUNGRY!
I WAS HUNGRY, ALL RIGHT, BUT WHAT I SAW TOOK MY APPETITE AWAY...
SHE WAS THE UGLIEST WOMAN I'D EVER SEEN...
BETH, THIS IS MR. PHIPPS! GIVE HIM SOME FOOD!
GOOD! WE ALWAYS LIKE COMPANY!
HUH? OH- THANKS!
MORE BISCUITS, MR. PHIPPS?
UHH- YES, PLEASE! THEY'RE DELICIOUS!
BETH IS A VERY GOOD COOK!
AFTER EATING, THEY WENT OFF AND STARTED WHISPERING....
QUEER SETUP HERE! WHAT ARE THEY WHISPERING ABOUT? I BETTER GET MOVING!
I SOON FOUND OUT...
WE NEED A HIRED MAN, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STAY?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE ONLY ONE ARM!
PLEASE STAY!

I STAYED...
I MUST TELL YOU ABOUT BETH! AS A RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT AS A CHILD, WELL, SHE IS RETARDED!
I'M SORRY, MISS BAXTER!
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT HERE- TOM GOOD-NIGHT!
I THINK I WILL, EMMY! GOOD-NIGHT!
ALONG TOWARD MORNING, SOMETHING WOKE ME! A STEALTHY SOUND OF FEET...
HUH! SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE OUTSIDE MY DOOR!
SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THIS SETUP ALL RIGHT! MAYBE I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHAT IT IS, RIGHT NOW!
I LOOKED OUT, AND SAW EMMY WALKING IN HER SLEEP...
EMMY! SHE'S LIABLE TO HURT HERSELF!
THAT WINDOW! SHE'LL FALL SURE IF I DON'T STOP HER!

I GOT HER JUST IN TIME...
EMMY! WAKE UP, EMMY! WANT TO KILL YOURSELF!
OHHHH!
DON'T ASK ME HOW IT HAPPENED! IT JUST DID! SUDDENLY SHE WAS IN MY ARMS AND I WAS KISSING HER...
WHAT-I-OH, I WAS WALKING IN MY SLEEP AGAIN!
YOU SURE WERE, EMMY! YOU SCARED ME! ONE MORE STEP...
TOM, OH, TOM! THIS IS WRONG!
NO, EMMY! IT'S RIGHT! I KNEW IT THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU! I LOVE YOU, EMMY!
WE TALKED FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE SHE WENT BACK TO HER ROOM...
GOOD NIGHT, DARLING! SWEET DREAMS!
GOOD NIGHT, EMMY!
I FELT A COLD SPOT GROW IN MY BACK! THEN I KNEW THAT BETH WAS WATCHING ME, HAD SEEN THE WHOLE THING...
SPYING! I'LL HAVE TO GET EMMY OUT OF THIS HOUSE!
NEXT MORNING I GOT RIGHT TO WORK, TRYING TO EARN MY KEEP...
GOOD MORNING, TOM! SLEEP WELL? I THOUGHT I HEARD NOISES LAST NIGHT!
I DIDN'T HEAR A THING, MISS BETH!
SHE SAW ME! WHAT KIND OF GAME IS SHE PLAYING?
A WEEK PASSED AND BETH NEVER LET ON THAT SHE KNEW EMMY AND I WERE IN LOVE...
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY SHE STARES AT EMMY AND ME! IF ONLY EMMY WOULD MARRY ME AND COME AWAY!

THEN ONE NIGHT, WHEN EMMY WAS LATE GETTING BACK FROM TOWN, IT BEGAN TO HAPPEN...
I WANT TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK WITH YOU, TOM! NOW THAT EMMY ISN'T AROUND TO INTERFERE!
A TALK, WHAT ABOUT BETH?
I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME, TOM! I'LL SEND EMMY AWAY AND WE'LL LIVE HERE JUST THE TWO OF US!
WHAT M-MARRY YOU?
YOU LAUGHED! ALL RIGHT, TOM, YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE! BUT DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO GET EMMY! YOU WON'T! YOU'LL SEE-Y-YOU ONE ARMED FOOL!
I DID A CRAZY THING MYSELF - I LAUGHED AT THE POOR LITTLE FOOL! THAT WAS A MISTAKE...
MARRY YOU, BETH! OH-HA-HAH!
YOU LAUGH AT ME, TOM PHIPPS!
DOWN, YOU BRUTE! STAY AWAY FROM ME OR I'LL BRAIN YOU! GET AWAY!
TIGER MUST HAVE SENSED WHAT HAD HAPPENED! HE WANTED TO KILL ME...
WHEN EMMY GOT BACK, I TOLD HER WHAT HAD HAPPENED...
SHE'S SICK, EMMY! REALLY SICK! YOU'VE GOT TO FACE IT!
I-I KNOW! BUT SHE'S MY SISTER, TOM! WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER! WHAT CAN I DO?
I TOLD EMMY WHAT SHE HAD TO DO! TOO LATE I SAW THE SHADOW...
PUT BETH IN A STATE INSTITUTION?
YES! AT ONCE! I'LL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS IF YOU DON'T WANT TO!
BETH LISTENING ON THE STAIRS!

NEXT DAY I DROVE EMMY'S CAR INTO TOWN AND TALKED TO THE AUTHORITIES! IT WAS LATE WHEN I GOT BACK...
HELLO, BETH! WHERE IS EMMY?
NOT HERE, TOM! SHE LEFT THIS AFTERNOON WHILE YOU WERE GONE!
GONE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN-GONE?
I-(CHUCKLE)-SENT HER TO MY COUSIN IN MEMPHIS, TOM PHIPPS! HA-HA HA!
I WENT TO EMMY'S ROOM, ALL HER THINGS WERE GONE...
BUT SHE COULDN'T HAVE GONE! SHE WOULDN'T NOT WITHOUT TELLING ME!
I WAITED UNTILL BETH HAD GONE TO BED...
I'VE GOT TO LOOK AROUND THE HOUSE! I'VE GOT TO KNOW!
WHEN I REACHED THE KITCHEN I HEARD IT-AND THEN I KNEW...
TIGER! IN THE CELLAR! H-HOWLING LIKE A BANSHEE! NO-NO-DON'T LET IT BE!
I THINK I HAD KNOWN ALONG, BUT NOW MY HEART TURNED TO ICE AND I COULDN'T GET AIR INTO MY LUNGS! EMMY—
EMMY! TIGER FOUND HER! S-SHE'S UNDER THAT DIRT!

I WENT CRAZY THEN! FOR SOME REASON, THE HOUND DIDN'T ATTACK ME, AS I TOOK EMMY'S BODY FROM THE GRAVE...
THAT MURDERING OLD WITCH! I'LL GET HER! I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE!
BETH WAS NOT IN HER ROOM AND THEN A FIENDISH PLAN CAME TO ME...
OUT PROWLING SOMEWHERE! GOOD! I'LL FIX A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR HER!
I MADE MY PREPARATIONS AND WAITED. SOON BETH CAME BACK, READY FOR BED...
GOOD! SHE HAS NO LIGHT AND THERE IS NONE IN THE ROOM! ALL HAVE TO DO IS WAIT!
THEN IT CAME A HORRIBLE SOUND....
DON'T LIKE IT, BETH? CRAWLING INTO BED WITH THE CORPSE OF THE WOMAN YOU MURDERED?
EEEEEEEEEEEE

I HAD MY REVENGE ALL RIGHT! THE PLAN HAD WORKED PERFECTLY...
SHE'S DEAD TOO! TOO MUCH FOR HER BLACK HEART!
I HAD FORGOTTEN ONLY ONE THING TIGER...
GRRRR-
GGGGAAA-

A STRANGE AND TERRIBLE STORY WAS TOLD TO YOUNG BOB RANCE IN THE LONELY, SNOW-BOUND RAILROAD STATION! AND WHEN THE ENDING CAME, RANCE FOUND HIMSELF THE CHIEF ACTOR IN THE **BLOOD CHILLING** CLIMAX TO THE TALE OF...

THE DEVIL'S MONSTER

QUITE A STORY YOU'VE TOLD ME... LUCKY WE'RE NOT MIXED UP IN IT! WHA--?

LOOK! **HELP!** HELP!

I'M A REPORTER FOR THE DAILY ARGUS! WE'VE HEARD THERE'S SOME WEIRD KIND OF BEAST ROAMING AROUND HERE! A THING THAT LOOKS LIKE A MAN!
WHY... OH, YES.. I'VE HEARD THAT!

HE KILLS PEOPLE AND EATS THEIR FLESH! AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT WE'VE HEARD!
YES! PEOPLE ARE MISSING HERE! GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!

"HE ROAMS BY NIGHT, THEY SAY! I DON'T GUESS ANYONE GOT CLOSE TO HIM AND LIVED.."

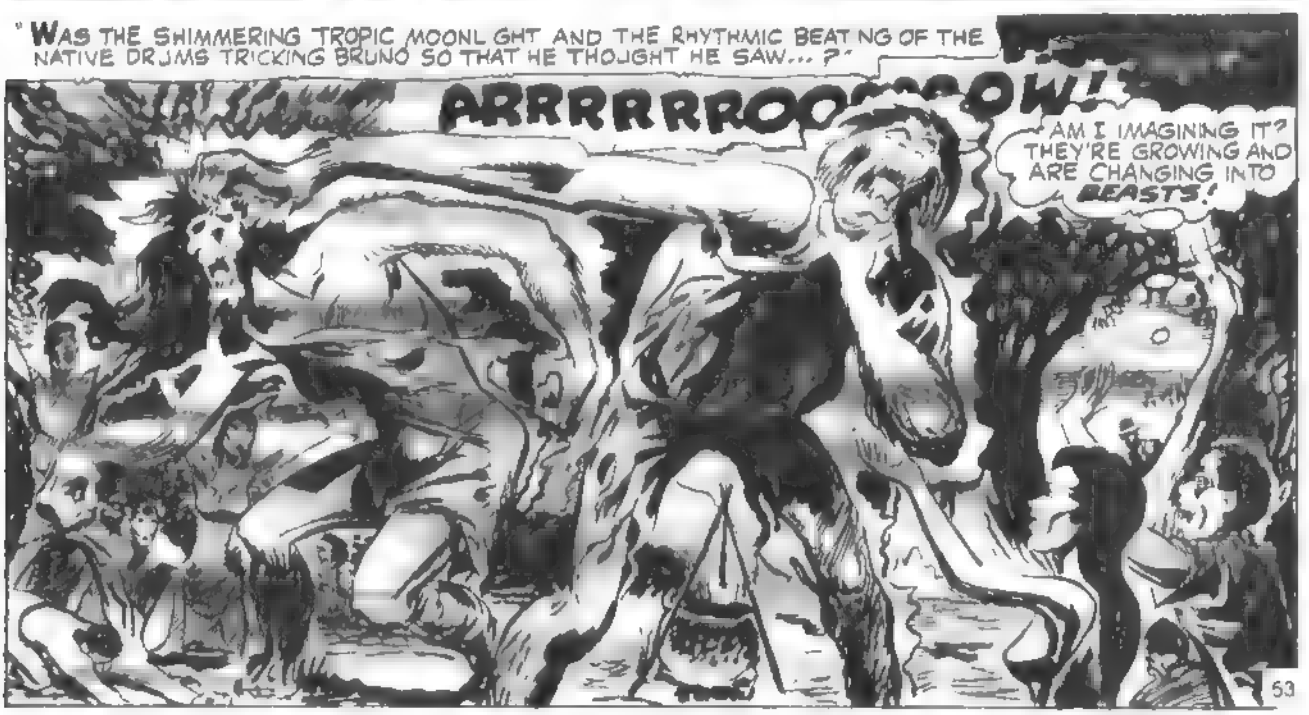
"SO MY PAPER SENT ME UP TO GET THE DOPE ON THIS...!"

WELL, WE'RE BOTH IN THE SAME BOAT.. I WRITE MAGAZINE STORIES! I CAME UP HERE A FEW DAYS AGO! AND I SURE FOUND OUT PLENTY!

IT'S QUITE A STORY--- GIVES YOU THE CREEPS! PARTICULARLY GOOD STUFF FOR ME-- BECAUSE THERE'S A GIRL IN IT! WANT TO HEAR WHAT THEY SAY AROUND HERE?
YOU BET I DO! SHOOT!

THERE WAS A FELLOW, THEY SAY, NAMED GEORGE BRUNO! HE HAD PLENTY OF MONEY... TRAVELED A LOT! A YEAR OR SO AGO, HE WAS IN HARTA-- A SMALL CARIBBEAN ISLAND... AND--
"--THIS GEORGE BRUNO WAS A STRANGE, BROODING SORT--HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN THE SUPERNATURAL--"
NO WHITE MAN IS ALLOWED TO SEE THE SACRED VOODOO RITUAL-- I'LL DISGUISE MYSELF..
"IN THE HOT TROPIC NIGHT, HE FURTIVELY FOLLOWED THE SOUNDS OF THE DISTANT DRUMS..."
...CAN'T BE FAR NOW. JUST DOWN THAT HILL.

"THE WEIRD DRUMS SOUNDED WITH THE RHYTHM OF A WILD, PAGAN DANCE! AND..."
"THEN THE STRANGE MYSTERIOUS RITUAL! NO WHITE MAN COULD EVER HOPE TO UNDERSTAND IT! GEORGE BRUNO STOOD AWED... WATCHING--"
NOW FOR THE POTION TO TRANSFORM THEM!
DRINK! AYEE! GREAT AND NOBLE SPIRITS OF THE DARKNESS, BLESS US AS THEY DRINK THINE POTION!


"WAS THE SHIMMERING TROPIC MOONLIGHT AND THE RHYTHMIC BEATING OF THE NATIVE DRUMS TRICKING BRUNO SO THAT HE THOUGHT HE SAW...?"
ARRRRRROOOOOOW!
AM I IMAGINING IT? THEY'RE GROWING AND ARE CHANGING INTO BEASTS!

"MAN INTO BEAST! DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD DARK LEGENDS HAVE TOLD OF THIS BLACK MAGIC

THEY'RE LEAVING. UGH! HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE!

GREAT SPIRIT, HERE THERE ARE OTHERS WHO WISH TO WORSHIP YOU

YES...YES WE ARE READY!

WHAT EVIL TRICK OF FATE MADE BRUNO THINK HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME OF THAT GHASTLY DEVIL'S BREW?

...I'LL GRAB SOME OF IT! IT'LL BE A SOUVINIR...

OH, GREAT SPIRIT...ACCEPT US INTO YOUR FLOCK... AND LET THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE BEWARE!

"GEORGE BRUNO GOT BACK TO HIS HOTEL ROOM, AND..."

...I SURE GOT AWAY WITH IT! GUESS I BETTER THROW THAT STUFF AWAY! IT'S PROBABLY A FAKE... BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO TEST IT!

NOT FOR A WHITE MAN, THE AWFUL SECRETS OF VOODOO! YOUNG BOB RANCE SHUDDERED AS THE GIRL TOLD HIM...

WELL, QUITE A STORY! BUT YOU SAID THERE WAS A GIRL IN IT!

THERE WAS A FOOLISH GIRL ATTRACTED TO GEORGE BRUNO BECAUSE HE WAS RICH HANDSOME! SHE THOUGHT OF IT AS ROMANCE, I GUESS! AND DON'T FORGET HE WAS WEALTHY... THAT DIDN'T HURT!

"HER NAME WAS ELAINE CONNERS! AN ORPHAN...A STENOGRAPHER--- A LONELY GIRL, DREAMING, HOPING FOR ROMANCE! AND ONE EVENING..."

HE CERTAINLY LOOKS INTERESTING! I WISH...

"IF ONLY ELAINE CONNERS HAD BEEN A LITTLE MORE CONVENTIONAL. BUT THIS TIME SHE WASN'T! AND..."

I DON'T WISH TO OFFEND YOU-- BUT YOU LOOK LONELY-- AND SO AM I! COULDN'T I FINISH MY SUPPER HERE?

"THAT WAS THE BEGINNING! IN THE END SHE MARRIED HIM AND HE BROUGHT HER TO SARNO GULCH. HE HAD TO HAVE QUIET FOR HIS STUDIES, HE SAID."

"THEY WERE WEALTHY, AND YET HE INSISTED ON LIVING LIKE THIS. NOW ELAINE WAS AFRAID OF HIM! THEN SHE HEARD THE VILLAGE TALES OF A ROAMING MONSTER, AND ONE MORNING---"

"SHE PRETENDED TO SLEEP... BUT SUDDENLY SHE SAW..."

"SHE DIDN'T DARE QUESTION HIM... THE DAY WAS A PANIC OF HORROR..."

"THEN THE TERRIFIED GIRL FLED OUT INTO THE STORM!

"AND AT SUPPER LATER..."

"SHE FORGOT THE QUEER TASTE OF HER FOOD! BEING LEFT ALONE GAVE HER THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE. FOR A MOMENT SHE PAUSED, LOOKING THROUGH HIS PRIVATE PAPERS, AND..."

NOW, IN THE LITTLE RAILWAY STATION, AS THE GIRL WAS TELLING IT TO RANCE.
YOU LED TO ME YOU'RE THAT G.R.!
YES! THAT'S WHY I HAD TO TELL YOU ALL THIS! DON'T LEAVE ME! GET ME BACK TO THE CITY!

NOW HUDDLED THERE IN THE STORM, A WILD PANIC WAS ON THEM BOTH!
WHEN HE COMES BACK AND FINDS ME GONE, HE'LL COME AFTER ME!
I ONLY HAD SOME KIND OF WEAPON!

THEN SUDDENLY..
ELAINE! ELAINE! HA,HA,HA!
???

WE'LL BAR THE DOORS AND WINDOWS GOT TO HOLD OUT UNTIL THE TRAIN ARRIVES!
IT--IT WON'T BE HERE FOR A HALF AN HOUR!
ELAINE! ELAINE!

ELAINE! HA,HA! ELAINE!
SEE IF THAT OTHER DOOR IS LOCKED
OH-H! HE'S SMASHING THE ROOF!

BLAM
WHAT CAN I DO? HOW CAN I FIGHT HIM??
OH, NO!

JUST THEN, ELAINE BEGAN TO QUIVER!
OHH-- I FEEL S-SO STRANGE! SOMETHING'S THE MATTER WITH ME! P-PLEASE HELP ME!

ELAINE!! ELAINE!! COME OUT!
SAR

THINGS ARE HAPPENING TOO FAST!-- WHAT CAN I DO?
OH... PLEASE!

SH-SHE SAID HER FOOD TASTED QUEER

HELP ME!!!

OH, NO..

--HE PUT THAT STUFF IN YOUR FOOD!

YAIEEE!
CRACK!
THE END

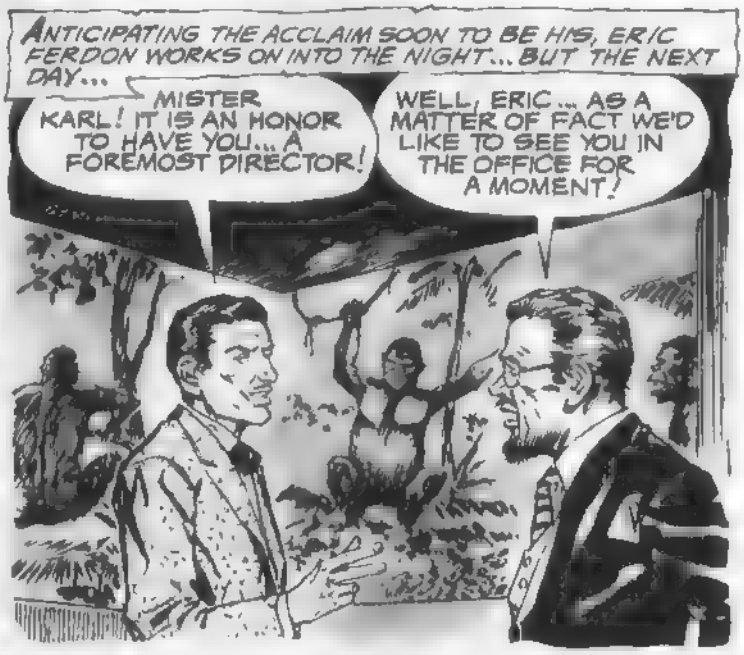
MONSTER

MIDNIGHT IN THE MUSEUM! AND WILD-EYED ERIC FERDON, TAXIDERMIST WORKS!
SOON MY GENIUS WILL BE IN DISPLAY OVER THIS ENTIRE FLOOR! THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS PROMISED IT TO ME!
MAGNIFIQUE! ANOTHER SUPERB SPECIMEN! I CALL YOU FRANZ!

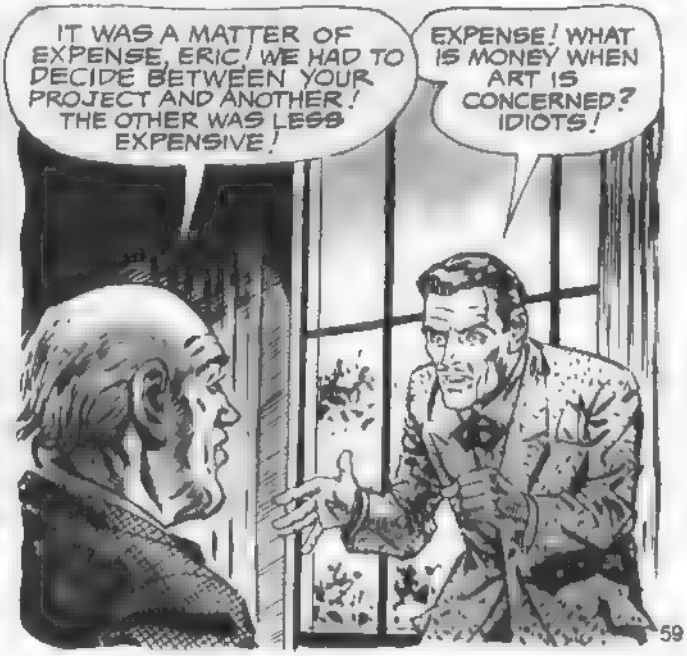
AN ENTIRE FLOOR DEVOTED TO THE WORK OF ERIC FERDON, WORLD'S GREATEST TAXIDERMIST! I HAVE LIVED LONG FOR THIS DAY!

HA-HA! MILLIONS WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF GAZING UPON MY MASTERY! AND NOTHING WILL EVER STAND IN MY WAY!

SPLENDID! I WILL CALL YOU OTTO! YOU WILL RECIEVE MANY COMPLIMENTS!


ANTICIPATING THE ACCLAIM SOON TO BE HIS, ERIC FERDON WORKS ON INTO THE NIGHT... BUT THE NEXT DAY...
MISTER KARL! IT IS AN HONOR TO HAVE YOU... A FOREMOST DIRECTOR!
WELL, ERIC... AS A MATTER OF FACT WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU IN THE OFFICE FOR A MOMENT!

WE HATE TO DO THIS, ERIC... BUT WE'RE NOT GOING THROUGH WITH YOUR DISPLAY!
BUT YOU CAN'T STOP ME NOW!


IT WAS A MATTER OF EXPENSE, ERIC! WE HAD TO DECIDE BETWEEN YOUR PROJECT AND ANOTHER! THE OTHER WAS LESS EXPENSIVE!
EXPENSE! WHAT IS MONEY WHEN ART IS CONCERNED? IDIOTS!

SEETHING WITH RAGE, THE FRUSTRATED TAXIDERMIST STORMS OUT... PROMISING REVENGE!
STUPID MEDDLERS! YOU HAVE TURNED ON ERIC FERDON! AND YOU WILL PAY!

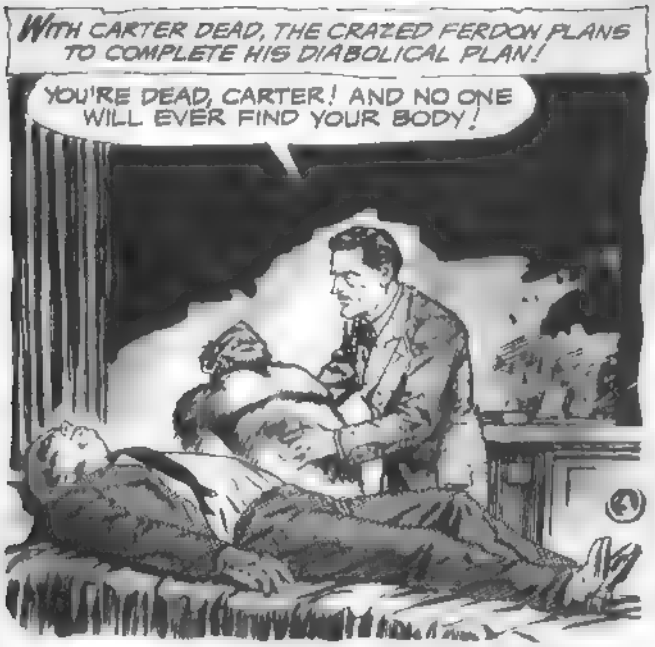
LATER THAT NIGHT, DISTRAUGHT AND MADDENED, FERDON CONCEIVES A FIENDISH SCHEME!
IT'S CARTER! I MUST DESTROY HIM! ONCE HE'S DEAD, MAYBE HIS REPLACEMENT WILL SEE THINGS MY WAY!

THE NEXT EVENING...
WE'RE ALONE, NOW, CARTER! JUST THE TWO OF US... HA-HA...
FERMON! YOU... YOU'RE MAD

YOU WILL DIE FOR YOUR FOLLY, CARTER!
NO!

AIIIIEEEEE!
SCREAM, CARTER! ONLY MY SPECIMENS CAN HEAR YOU!

HA-HA-HA! DIE, CARTER! DIE!


WITH CARTER DEAD, THE CRAZED FERDON PLANS TO COMPLETE HIS DIABOLICAL PLAN!
YOU'RE DEAD, CARTER! AND NO ONE WILL EVER FIND YOUR BODY!

POSSESSED WITH AN ALL-CONSUMING THIRST FOR REVENGE, FERDON APPEARS TO RELISH THE HORRIBLE TASK!
BECAUSE YOU VOTED AGAINST MY DISPLAY, CARTER, YOU WILL BECOME PART OF IT! HA-HA!

YOU MAKE AN EXCELLENT GORILLA, CARTER! HA-HA-HA!

HA-HA! NOTHING CAN STOP MY PROJECT! NOW I JUST WAIT FOR ANOTHER BOARD MEMBER TO BE SELECTED AND MAKE SURE THAT HE SEES THINGS MY WAY! IF NOT-- I HAVE MORE APE SKINS!

IT CAN'T BE! NO!
BUT FERDON'S WARPED GLEE IS SHORT-LIVED... AS HE HEARS A SAVAGE GROWL BEHIND HIM! AND WHIRLING, HE SEES...

CARTER'S GHOST! NO... BUT...IT... IS!
GRRR...!

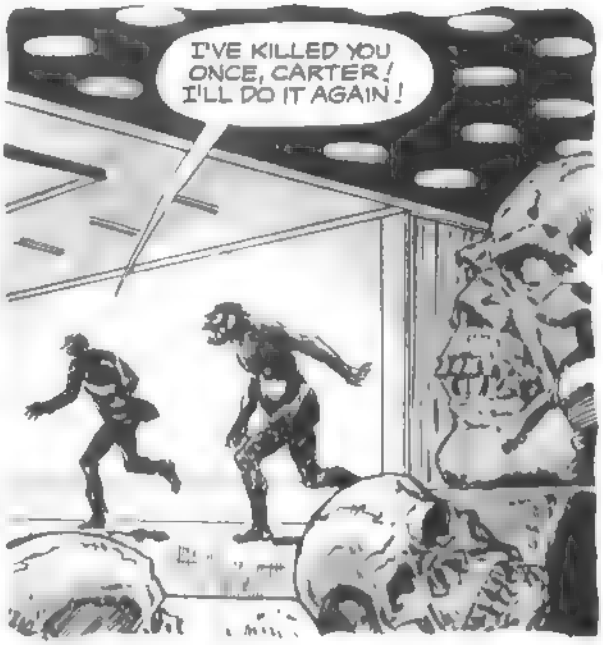
FERDON'S LUST IS TRANSFORMED INTO ABJECT HORROR AS HE FLEES BEFORE THE MONSTER'S SAVAGE CHARGE!
GRRR!
AIIIEEE! KEEP AWAY!

CARTER! GO BACK! STOP HAUNTING ME!

HIS FEAR TURNING TO MADNESS, FERDON RETREATS FRANTICALLY, BUT THE BEAST PURSUES RELENTLESSLY!
AIEEE! CARTER... PLEASE!

STOP! I SAY, STOP! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, CARTER! YOU'RE DEAD! I KILLED YOU!

HE'S HAUNTING ME! AIIIEEEE!


I'VE KILLED YOU ONCE, CARTER! I'LL DO IT AGAIN!

BUT THE MONSTER IS NOT TO BE DENIED, AND THE MADDENED TAXIDERMIST IS FINALLY CORNERED!
TRAPPED! KEEP AWAY!
GRRR!

NOOOOO! AIEEEE!
GRRR!

WHILE AT THIS VERY MOMENT ON THE STREET...
WE'VE CHECKED EVERY BUILDING BUT THE MUSEUM, FOR THE APE THAT ESCAPED FROM THE CIRCUS!
LET'S HAVE A LOOK THERE!

NOTHING YET!
CAREFUL! HE'S SIX HUNDRED POUNDS AND STRONG AS TEN MEN... SHOOT ON SIGHT!

THE GRIM POSSE'S SEARCH IS REWARDED!
GOT HIM!
GRRR!

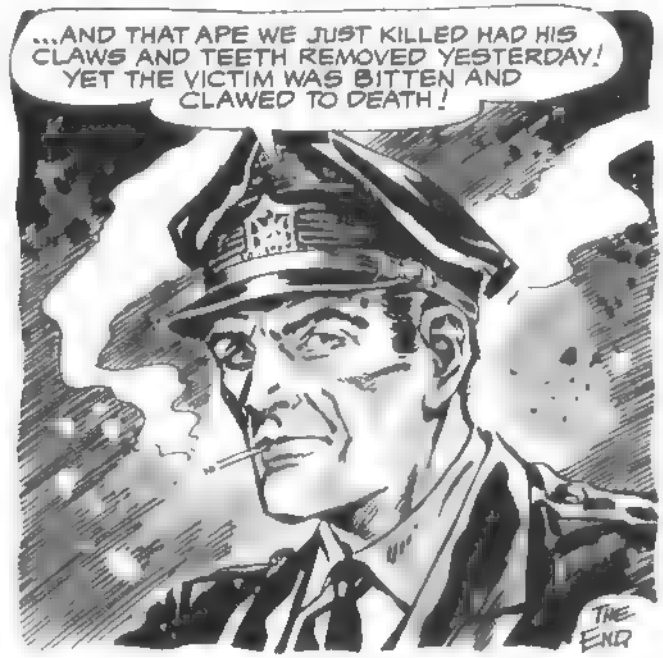
C'MON... I HEARD SCREAMS BEFORE! LET'S LOOK AROUND!

WE HAVEN'T TRIED THE APE ROOM YET!
IT SURE WOULD BE THE PLACE FOR THAT GORILLA TO HAVE GONE TO!

GOOD HEAVENS! THE GORILLA WAS HERE! LOOK!

THE POOR GUY MUST HAVE RUN INTO THE APE JUST BEFORE WE CAME IN!
HE'S HORRIBLE!

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING SO PUZZLED ABOUT?
WELL, IT'S JUST THAT ALL PERFORMING ANIMALS HAVE THEIR TEETH PULLED AND CLAWS CLIPPED AS A SAFETY MEASURE, AND...


...AND THAT APE WE JUST KILLED HAD HIS CLAWS AND TEETH REMOVED YESTERDAY! YET THE VICTIM WAS BITTEN AND CLAWED TO DEATH!
THE END

ESCAPE TO NOWHERE

TOUGH GUY TRASK SHOOTS HIS WAY OUT OF A PRISON IN DISTANT SPACE -- AND GAINS A KIND OF FREEDOM HE DIDN'T EXPECT!

I KNOCKED OFF A SPACE PATROL OFFICER, SO THEY STUCK ME -- ROCKY TRASK -- IN A LABOR CAMP...

I'LL NOT SPEND MY LIFE IN THIS HOLE! I'M TOO SMART FOR THAT!

IT DIDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO DISCOVER AN ACE UP THE SLEEVE OF ANOTHER LIFER...

FOR A MARTIAN, YOU'RE A PRETTY TAME GUY, GROK! YOU FIGURE ON GETTING A BREAK THRU GOOD BEHAVIOR?

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, EARTHMAN, BUT I'LL BE HERE TILL THE NEXT SPACESHIP COMES IN!

DON'T GIVE ME THAT! NO MARTIAN IS BRIGHT ENOUGH TO SLIP OUT OF HERE!
WHEN I LEAVE, I'LL REMEMBER THAT CRACK-- WITH THIS!
A MARTIAN GAS GUN!
RIGHT! AND IF YOU WANT A DOSE SOONER THAN YOU'LL OTHERWISE GET IT--JUST TRY SQUEALING ON ME!

ONE OF THE JOVIAN GUARDS SPOTTED US TALKING.....
BREAK IT UP OR YOU'LL GET A STRETCH IN THE PLUTONIUM PITS!

THE GUARD DIDN'T SEE THE GUN, OR HE WOULD HAVE BLASTED US! GROR JAMMED THE WEAPON BACK IN HIS TRUNKS, AND WE MOVED APART....
I HIT THE JACKPOT! THAT PRECIOUS LITTLE GAT ISN'T GOING TO BE HIS VERY LONG.

DAYS PASSED...AND THEN MY CHANCE CAME! SEVERAL OF US, INCLUDING GROR, WERE WORKING ON A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS A DEEP FISSURE...
I'VE GOT TO RISK IT! IT COULD BE NOW....OR NEVER!

MANEUVERING CLOSE TO GROR, I ACCIDENTLY BUMPED HIM....

HE FELL TO A LEDGE BELOW. I WAS THE FIRST TO SCRAMBLE DOWN AFTER HIM...AND TOOK HIS GAS GUN!
HAUL HIM UP AND GET HIM TO FIRST AID!
HE'S PAST FIRST AID!
THEN TAKE HIM TO THE MORGUE, AND ALL OF YOU REPORT FOR QUESTIONING!

LUCKILY, NO ONE HAD SEEN WHAT HAD HAPPENED, THEN, ABOUT A MONTH LATER....
SPACESHIP!
THE SPACESHIP LANDED, AND A LITTLE LATER A CARGO OF PRISONERS FROM EVERY PLANET IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

THIS IS IT! WHILE ATTENTION WAS ON THE NEWCOMERS, I TRAINED MY GAS GUN ON THE WALL GUARDS!
THE THIN LINES OF DEADLY GAS BORED SILENTLY THRU THEIR THICK BODIES! I PICKED THEM OFF ONE BY ONE!
THEN I GOT THE MERCURIAN GATE CONTROLLER UP IN THE OBSERVATION TOWER....

....AND RACED TOWARD THE SPACESHIP....
I LEAPED INSIDE AND RACED TO THE CONTROL ROOM TO TAKE THE CREW BY SURPRISE....BUT THE ROOM WAS EMPTY....
WHAT A BREAK! NOW TO GET THIS CRATE GOING FOR THAT SPOT I KNOW ON NEPTUNE!
COM
ROCKETS SUDDENLY ROARED! I WAS HURLED TO THE WALL!
THE SHIP'S MOVING!...WHY... I DIDN'T TOUCH THE CONTROLS!
AS I STARED IN CONFUSION, A VOICE BOOMED OUT FROM BEHIND ME!
THE CONTROLS WOULDN'T RESPOND IF YOU DID TOUCH THEM, TRASK! YOU'RE TRAPPED!
I WHEELED TO SEE THE PRISON WARDEN'S FACE ON A TELION SCREEN!
THIS SHIP IS AUTOMATIC! CONTROLS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET TO RETURN IT TO MARS!
YEAH? THEN I'LL SHOOT MY WAY OUT!
YOU'LL NEVER SEE MARS! THERE WERE NO PRISONERS TO SEND BACK. SO THE OXYGENERATORS WERE CUT OFF! YOU'LL SUFFOCATE! GOODBYE!
NO! NO! I'LL SHOOT MYSELF FIRST!
IT WAS ONLY A FEW HOURS AGO THAT THE WARDEN TALKED TO ME! SINCE THEN I'VE TRIED IN VAIN TO BREAK THE OXYGEN TANKS OPEN! NOW I CAN HARDLY BREATHE!.... I'M TOO WEAK TO USE MY GUN.... THINGS....TURNING BLACK... THE END....FOR ME....!
AAAGGGH-H-H-H-H
THE END